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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 AID-05
ICA-20 OES-09 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10
OIC-02 CCO-00 PASO-00 /119 W
----------010805 090933Z /15
R 090918Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5889

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 24924

NESCO

PLEASE PASS TO JOHN E. FOBES, 529 DOGWOOD DRIVE,
CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA 27514 AND TO OES FOR
IRWIN PIKUS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, OCON, UNESCO
SUBJECT: SPIN CONFERENCE: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

REF: STATE 196249

1. AS THE OPENING DATE OF THE CONFERENCE APPROACHES, THE ATTENTION TO IT IS INCREASING RAPIDLY BOTH WITHIN THE UNESCO SECRETARIAT AND ELSEWHERE IN PARIS. CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS ARE RECEIVING THE DAILY ATTENTION OF THE DG AND DDG. DG M'BOW HAS APPARENTLY SUCCEEDED IN CONVINCING THE PRC TO SEND A DELEGATION, AND IS WORKING HARD ON OTHER NATIONS THAT HAD PREVIOUSLY INDICATED NO INTEREST TO FOLLOW SUIT. HE HAS NOT INDICATED HIS REASONS FOR THIS UNUSUAL INTEREST, BUT IT COULD BE THAT HE SEES INFORMATICS AS A POSSIBLE SUBJECT IN WHICH UNESCO COULD MAKE ITS MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNCSTD.

2. TWO NEWSPAPER STORIES HAVE APPEARED IN RECENT DAYS
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(POUCHED TO IO/UNESCO, ATTENTION F. LI) STATING THAT THE U.S. DELEGATION TO SPIN MAY OFFER FREE ACCESS TO U.S. DATA BANKS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN TO THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES. THE SOURCE OF THIS PRO-IBI INFORMATION IS NOT KNOWN, BUT SPECULATION IS THAT IT MAY HAVE BEEN PLANTED BY IBI.

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3. UNESCO SECRETARIAT FEARS THAT A CONFRONTATION OVER THE SO-CALLED MULTINATIONALS MAY TAKE PLACE AT THE CONFERENCE. APPARENTLY, COMMERCIAL COMPANIES SUCH AS IBM HAVE THE SAME FEAR, AND IBM IS SENDING 15 OBSERVERS TO TORREMOLINOS. THIS PARTICULAR COMPANY IS SAID TO FEEL THAT NO ONE IS SPEAKING FOR THE MUCH MALIGNED MULTINATIONALS, AND HOPES THAT THE U.S. DELEGATION WILL DO SO. AN ANY RATE, PERMDEL SUGGESTS THAT U.S. DELEGATION BE PREPARED TO SPEAK TO BOTH THE AVAILABILITY OF DATA AND THE VIRTUES OF MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES. THE PROBLEM OF ACCESS TO DATA BANKS WILL OBVIOUSLY BE A BIG ISSUE, AND THE CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS ARE PUTTING ON THREE EXHIBITS SHOWING ON-LINE SEARCHES, ETC. THERE WILL NOT BE ANY COMMERCIAL EXHIBITS, HOWEVER.

4. A THIRD INDICATOR OF HEIGHTENED INTEREST IS THE 15 DELEGATE MINISTERIAL-LEVEL DELEGATION BEING DISPATCHED BY FRANCE AND, LESS SURPRISINGLY, THE STRONG SPANISH DELEGATION, ALSO LEAD BY MINISTERIAL-LEVEL PEOPLE.

5. BOTH DG M'BOW AND DG BERNASCONI WILL BE IN

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 AID-05
ICA-20 OES-09 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10
CCO-00 PASO-00 OIC-02 /119 W
----------010883 090953Z /15
R 090918Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5890

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ATTENDANCE. PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE WILL BE THE LEADER OF THE SPANISH DELEGATION, MINISTER JOSE MANUEL OTERO NOVAS. SIDNEY PASSMAN OF UNESCO WILL SERVE AS CONFERENCE SECRETARY GENERAL. NO CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN

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PROPOSED FOR RAPPORTEUR OR CHAIRMEN OF THE TWO COMMISSIONS.

6. THERE IS NO MOTION AFOOT, AS QUERIED IN REFTEL, TO INCORPORATE IBI INTO UNESCO AT THE CONFERENCE. UNESCO HAS ESTABLISHED A COMMITTEE TO LOOK AT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN UNESCO AND IBI, AND SUCH A PROPOSAL COULD CONCEIVABLY BE MADE BY THIS COMMITTEE AT A LATER TIME. IT IS REASONABLE TO ASSUME, HOWEVER, THAT DG BERNASCONI, JUST REAPPOINTED, WOULD RESIST ANY EFFORT TO DOWNGRADE HIS STATUS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE CONTINUOUS FRICTION BETWEEN THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS HAS BEEN SO TIME-CONSUMING OVER THE YEARS AS TO DICATATE A CHANGE OF SOME KIND. IF AND WHEN IT COMES, IT WILL LIKELY INVOLVE ALSO CONSOLI-ATION OF ALL UNESCO ACTIVITES IN THE FIELD S OF INFORATICS, INFOMATIN, DATA PROCESSING OR BY WHATEVER NAMES THEY ARE KNOWN.

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7. PERMDEL AWAITING OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION OF DELEGATION TO BE SUBMITTED TO SECRETARIAT FOR ACCREDI-TATION.
TORRES

NOTE BY OC/T: PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 09 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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SAS ID: 1792219
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPIN CONFERENCE: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: AORG, OCON, UNESCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
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